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7/13/81
Congress of the United States
Committee on Foreign Affairs

House of Representatives

Washington, D.C. 20515

July 13, 1981

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His Excellency
Lt. General (RET) Roberto Eduardo Viola
President of the Republic of Argentina
Casa Rosada
Buenos Aires, Argentina

Dear Mr. President:

I would like to take this opportunity to express my regret and concern about the recent detention of Hebe de Bonasini and Maria Adela de Antokoletz, president and vice-president of the Mothers of the Plaza del Mayo.

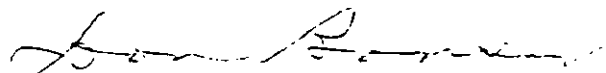
As you may know, the Mothers of the Plaza del Mayo were in the United States to receive a human rights award and to meet with members of Congress, clergy, and human rights groups. I have met with several Mothers of the Plaza del Mayo in past visits, and I am a member of the U.S. Friends of the Mothers of the Plaza del Mayo.

It is my understanding that their award and other materials were confiscated during the women's detention. I am particularly concerned that their visit to my country and their meetings with members of the House of Representatives might have been the cause of this harassment.

Since I have had the opportunity to speak with you personally about human rights in Argentina, I would like to ask you to intercede on behalf of the Mothers of the Plaza del Mayo so that in the future they may be protected from further harassments.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Don Bonker
Chairman

Subcommittee on Human Rights and
International Organizations

DB/hb

cc: Secretary of State Alexander Haig
Ambassador Harry W. Shlaudeman

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(2/17)

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